

# AROUND THE HOUSE



## Housing Advisory Board Develops Strategic Plan

-Mary K. Vaughn

On August 17th, the Wichita Housing Advisory Board spent the day in a retreat to develop a strategic plan for the future of our Department and to address future community housing needs.

The Housing Advisory Board, appointed by the Mayor and City Council, recently welcomed three new members – a representative from the Community Council on Advocacy for the Homeless and two new tenant members.

Eight of the 11 members of the Board attended the retreat, which included a time for the Board members to express



*Housing Advisory Board Retreat— August 17, 2004*

their expertise and interest in housing issues, time for the Housing Services Department to share information on the programs we operate, and time for the Board to identify key

issues for future action by the Board.

One of the goals which the Board adopted, is the development of a Comprehensive Housing Plan. Housing staff will work with the Board members in identifying ways to conduct the research necessary to develop and implement such a plan. The goal is to have the plan finished within one year. Interim reports will be shared through this newsletter as the plan is being developed.

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## Recent HUD Program Reviews

Most of the housing programs that we operate such as Section 8, Public Housing, the Emergency Shelter Grants and H.O.M.E. programs are funded by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Periodically, HUD staff perform on site monitoring of these programs to assure

Housing Services' compliance with program regulations and procedures. This past July, HUD staff members from the Kansas Missouri Regional Office reviewed records under both the Section 8 and Public Housing Rental Integrity programs, as well as the Emergency Shelter Grants and H.O.M.E. Relocation programs. In general, HUD

found the housing programs operated by the Department to be in compliance with all HUD regulations and directives.

These positive reports are the result of staff who take the time to do their jobs according to the regulations. Keep up the good work!



No spring nor summer  
beauty hath such grace  
As I have seen in one  
autumnal face.

~John Donne



## Milestones

**Welcome to our newest employee**  
Roberta Monson Clerk I  
in the Section 8 Office.

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*"Make Every Home  
a Safe Home"*

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### Did You Know That...??

FSS clients can increase escrow amounts by increasing employment income? For example, a FSS client had an annual income of \$6,000 at the onset of their FSS contract. At their next reexamination their earned income increased to \$8,000. With the \$2,000 increase in earning, additional monies can be deposited in their escrow account. Currently, 102 FSS clients have earned escrow savings that range from \$7 to over \$15,000.00!

-Vallery Fields

## Around the House

### From the Director's Chair Mary K. Vaughn



For several weeks I have been leading staff efforts to develop a new mission statement for the Housing Services Department and this month I am proud to unveil our new Mission, Vision and Value statements. These statements were developed with input from all Housing Services Department staff and we believe they clearly express who we are.

The **Mission** of the Housing Services Department is

... to provide housing and related services to benefit the citizens and neighborhoods of Wichita.

Our **Vision** is ... to help people make Wichita home – where the heart is.

These are our **Values**:  
Respectfully helping others achieve safe, affordable housing.  
Empowering people and improving neighborhoods.  
Making a difference – right

where people live.  
Investing in people with their housing needs.

We hope you will agree that these statements will help us live up to our new motto:

**We** in the Housing Services Department  
Help **You** obtain and/or repair affordable housing

To enrich **Our** community!

## Family Self-Sufficiency Domestic Violence Picnic and Workshop

-Vallery Fields

The photos shown below highlight the Department's first FSS Domestic Violence Picnic and Workshop. The event was held at McAdams Recreation Center on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Over 100 participants enjoyed fun and games. A DARE Program was

presented by the Police Department, and Officer Johnny Parker gave a presentation about police involvement in domestic related calls. Lynn Patton, Harbor House District Court Advocate provided information about Protection From Abuse (PFA)

and Protection From Stalking (PFS) orders. Thanks to our facilitators for supporting our efforts to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in the Wichita community. A grant from the Target East Store provided funds for the event.



## National Fire Prevention Week October 3–6th

### *Common Sources of Fires in Public Housing*

-Tom Byler

**Children playing with fire** is the second single source of fires in public housing behind fires of undetermined sources.\*

You can make a difference by restricting your children's access to matches and lighters. Property losses are only one aspect of the damage done. Children are in-

jured, some permanently and others die.

Parents can control sources of fire such as matches and lighters.

Talk to your children about the dangers of playing with matches. Engage them in an educational program such as the HAI Group's Fire Prevention Week Poster Program.

Kids will learn about fire

safety and have fun. Up to \$300 in prize money will be given away to participants.

For more information contact Deb Bower at 800-873-0242 x276 or visit [www.housingcenter.com](http://www.housingcenter.com).

\* Based on Housing Authority Insurance Group claim experience data for 2001-2003.

### Someone You Should Know

-Pat Oreder



**Jill Smith**, a Greenway Manor resident, was recognized in July by the Veteran's Administration. She has completed 10,000 volunteer hours over the past 14 years. Jill was presented with a silver bowl and volunteer service pin during an annual awards ceremony at McConnell Air Force Base. Congratulations Jill for your continued support of our community!!!

## CURRENT HAP PAYMENT SCHEDULE

<i>Month</i>	<i>Mail Date</i>
OCTOBER	SEPTEMBER 28, 2004
NOVEMBER	OCTOBER 29, 2004
DECEMBER	NOVEMBER 30, 2004
JANUARY 2005	JANUARY 3, 2005
FEBRUARY 2005	JANUARY 28, 2005
MARCH 2005	FEBRUARY 25, 2005

## Homeownership Corner

-Mark Stanberry

Here are some easy home maintenance tasks to complete as the fall season approaches. Fall is a great time to fertilize your lawn and the best time to improve the appearance of your lawn by seeding those bare patches that might have appeared over the summer.

Purchase grass seed at your local lawn and garden or

hardware store. Keep the newly seeded areas damp by lightly watering each day. Be sure to keep leaves and other lawn debris away from these newly seeded areas.

Replace your old furnace filter this fall. This is a very inexpensive maintenance task, but it is the best thing you can do to make sure that your furnace continues to

operate properly this winter. It is also a good idea to have a licensed heating and air conditioning technician check and clean your furnace.

Remove garden hoses from the outside water faucets to prevent costly plumbing repairs and potential flooding when it is cold enough to freeze water.

**Section 8  
Landlords  
TAKE  
NOTE!**





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*Back to School*

We're on the Web!  
[www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Housing](http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Housing)

## School Daze

Some children find school an exhilarating challenge, while others are overwhelmed. Parents of young children can help them by being more involved in school. If you have the time or a flexible work schedule, you can participate in the classroom one day a week. This affords you the opportunity to observe your child and to help the teacher, who probably has his or her hands full. You can see what problems your child has adjusting to the school routines and find ways, by modeling the teacher, to help your

child. Your presence also gives the younger child a feeling of security to know mom or dad is close by. Unfortunately some parents do not have this flexibility to take off a day and participate in their child's classroom. You can still stay involved by attending parent/teacher conferences, calling the teacher periodically to see how your child is doing, and keeping informed about over-all school events as well as your child's individual performance.

Make sure your child knows how to study and finds it a

positive, rewarding experience. Get excited about your child's projects, both at home and school. Post school work on the refrigerator door as if they are pieces of famous artwork. And talk regularly with your child about his feelings about school. Is he afraid of another student? Does he think the teacher is nice or mean? What is it like riding the bus, or eating school cafeteria food, or playing at recess? Who are his friends and why does he like them? Even busy parents can find time for these discussions.